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ELY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

a report of the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1964

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Officers

Medical Officer of Health:

K.S. MAURICE-SMITH, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

A. CROSS, Cert. R.S.I. (To 31st March, 1964).

D.J. GWYNN, M.A.P.H.I., Cert R.S.H. and P.H.I.E.B.
Inspector of Meat & Other Foods
(From 1st April, 1964).


Additional Public Health Inspector:

N.D. GAYLER, M.A.P.H.I., Cert. P.H.I.E.B.

Clerk/Typist:

MISS F.M. READ (To 4th September, 1964)

MRS. M. MAIN (From 5th October, 1964).



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Etheldreda House,
35, St. Mary's Street,
ELY, Cambs.

TO:- The Chairman and Members,
Ely Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen - I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1964:-

1. STATISTICS: During 1964, the usual statistics have been kept and are available.

2. GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES:

(a) Ambulances: Two Ambulances are stationed at Ely, both being operated by the Isle of Ely County Council.

The Littleport St. John Ambulance continues to work under the agency agreement with the County Council. This vehicle, which serves the local area, and those areas adjoining when necessary, continues to be of the greatest value. It is manned and run by local St. John members.

As in previous years, it is with great regret that I have to report that Ely St. John members have been able to give only occasional assistance. Difficulties are as great as ever in replacing those members who retire on account of age.

(b) Nursing and Clinic Arrangements: Clinic arrangements are as for previous years. The District Nurses continue to give their willing and efficient services to all those requiring them. They greatly deserve the thanks of the Community for all that they do.

2. GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES (Contd.)

(c) Hospitals:

(i)

Tower Hospital for Chronic Sick.

(ii)

St. John's Hospital for Infectious Diseases
and long-stay cases.

(iii)

The Grange Maternity Home.

These three Hospitals are under the control
of the Regional Hospital Board.

3. WATER:

(For the following information I am indebted to Mr. F.W. Sanders,
Engineer to the Ely, Mildenhall and Newmarket Water Board).

While recording a negligible increase in the population of the district served by the Water Board, it was noted that consumption of water had increased by 5.9%. This no doubt reflects the increasing improvements being carried out in all parts of the district where main sewerage facilities become available and owners install modern sanitary fittings. While this is a very desirable situation from the public health viewpoint, the Board must be anxiously watching their sources of supply, as 1964 was the fourth successive year with a below average rainfall. The winter rainfall is relied upon to replenish the wells, but since 1961 the rainfall in the months of October to February has been extremely light, with the result that the yield of some of the wells fell away.

The Ely Rural District's supply is drawn for the greater part from the bore hole at Beck Row. While both the bore hole and the public pumps at the station have the potential for a larger yield, the out-put is limited by the extensive pumping distance and the limitation of the mains pipe diameters. In order to counteract complaints of low pressure in the station, assistance was obtained from a temporary pump installed in the new low level reservoir at Ely.

A further 36" diameter bore hole was drilled at Beck Row during the year but the Ministry of Housing and Local Government had not authorised its use at the end of the year. The delays which have beset the Board in this respect leaves some doubt as to whether any real improvement in the supply to the rural district can be anticipated before 1968.

3. WATER: (Contd.)

The quality of the water supplied to the district continues to maintain the high standard expected and a typical analysis is reproduced below.

Beck Row Pumping Station

Sample of water received on 22nd October, 1964,
from Mr. F.W. Sanders of the Ely, Mildenhall
and Newmarket Water Board.

Physical Characters	Good
Reaction	pH 7.0
The sample contained:-	<u>Parts per 100,000</u>
Chloride	4.3
Ammonia (free & saline)	absent
Ammonia (albuminoid)	0.0052
Oxygen absorbed in 3 hours at 37°C	0.00478
Nitrate	0.80
Nitrite	absent
Poisonous Metals	absent
Hardness Total	30.0
Hardness Permanent	10.8
Hardness Temporary	19.2

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION

Coliform organisms absent in 100 mls

No. of micro-organisms per mil at 37°C = nil.

No. of micro-organisms per mil at 21°C = nil.

MICROSCOPICAL EXAMINATION OF DEPOSIT

None.

3. WATER: (Contd.)

REMARKS

The results obtained on the analysis of this sample do not show any evidences of pollution with harmful organic or inorganic matter.

I am of the opinion that this water is fit for drinking purposes.

(Signed) S. Greenburgh,

27th October, 1964.

Public Analyst.

As will be remembered the Council has previously discussed the subject of water fluoridation; and it was decided not to support the proposals to so treat the water supplies.

During the year 1963, over $9\frac{1}{2}$ million fillings of permanent teeth in children and $1\frac{1}{2}$ million permanent teeth were extracted from children in England and Wales alone.

Bearing in mind these appalling figures, it is hoped that the previous decision will be re-considered in the near future, as available evidence indicates that the rate of dental caries is materially reduced in those drinking fluoridated water.

For the past ten years intensive study of the whole question has been carried on in this country. It is stated authoritatively that no harmful results can be demonstrated at any age by the drinking of water containing 1 part per million of fluoride.

4. SEWAGE:

Good progress has continued during the year on the major sewerage schemes.

Preliminary works, progress works or final stages were obvious in nearly every Parish, and a summary of developments is shown below:-

MEPAL

In final stage at the beginning of the year, the system became operative during April.

Contract figure: £38,535.

WITCHFORD

With satisfactory progress during the year, the system became operative in October. It had been agreed to lay extensions to serve the On-E-Hunga Caravan Park and the site operator was quick to take advantage of this facility. In turn this led to an improvement of site conditions and made modern conveniences available to every standing.

Contract figure: £41,614.

STRETHAM

Final road re-surfacing took place. A survey of properties not connected to the new system was made and, despite several requests, very few accepted the opportunity of connecting, either with or without grants. Efforts were still being made at the end of the year to see that full advantage is made of the scheme.

Contract figure: £65,600.

HADDENHAM

The contractors commenced work in March. Reasonable progress was made on this scheme which is amongst the largest to be undertaken in this district.

Contract figure: £151,000.

4. SEWAGE: (Contd.)

LITTLE DOWNHAM

Approval in principal was given by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government on 28th January, 1964. Work commenced on the scheme in September.

Contract figure: £127,000.

COVENEY

A public inquiry was held by an Engineering Inspector of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government on 25th March, 1964. Approval in principal to the scheme was given on 1st October, 1964, despite objections raised by a land owner in respect to the siting of the treatment works.

Contract figure: £36,956.

WILBURTON

An investigation into the proposed scheme was made by an Engineering Inspector of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government on 22nd October, 1964. Approval in principal was given on 20th November, 1964.

LITTLEPORT

Extensive investigation of infiltration and sub-soil conditions was necessary before contract documents could be completed. These preliminary items were still receiving attention at the end of the year.

BOW COTTAGES, SUTTON

Despite several previous rejections of a scheme to extend the Sutton sewer to serve these properties, the Council approved this work in April 1964. Several owners had shown interest in improvement grants and it was felt that additional septic tank systems to serve individual properties would eventually lead to a public health nuisance and would not be desirable. Four owners contributed £416 towards the scheme, and work was due to start early in 1965.

Contract figure: £2,462:13:6d.

4. SEWAGE: (Contd.)

It is extremely satisfying to be able to record such progress, and with most major schemes reaching finalisation, attention will no doubt be focussed on the smaller areas still capable of being served by a main sewerage system. Many houses, in scattered units along fen droves, must necessarily be excluded, and the small private disposal unit will still be needed for many years to come. The time is now approaching when the Council should consider a free cesspool emptying service, either by the continued agency of a private contractor, or by providing their own equipment.

In respect of new sewerage schemes the Council operates Section 12 of the Public Health Act 1961 (Contribution to cost of sewerage highway), and for this purpose your inspectors have carried out surveys to ascertain the owners of land affected.

5. WATERCOURSES AND SEWER DYKES:

Due to increasing difficulty in maintaining watercourses and sewer dykes for which the Council have responsibility, an approach had been made to the various Internal Drainage Boards for assistance in 1963. This was to take the form of contracts for individual dykes, with prior approval of estimates to be given by the Council, and general supervision to remain in the hands of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

Altogether some 1180 chains of awarded watercourses fall to be maintained by the district council in addition to 377 chains of sewer dykes in various parishes.

The Littleport & Downham Internal Drainage Board were prepared to carry out roding and drag-line cleansing in 1032 chains, and the Little Thetford Internal Drainage Board accepted the 256 chains in Stretham.

Despite this agreement, I am unable to record that a satisfactory programme of maintenance was attained during the year, as the Internal Drainage Boards are facing similar difficulties over labour. Generally, our own manual staff dealt with urgent maintenance problems, and the department's foreman made periodic surveys to ensure that culverts were kept clear and gratings were chromed to prevent blockages. An extensive survey, in connection with the various Internal Drainage Board officials, is anticipated in the next year and, from this, a planned maintenance programme is expected to emerge. It is also hoped that closer liaison with the County Land Drainage Officer will avoid difficulties of levels and usage of the awarded watercourses.

6. HOUSING:

a) Council Housing Programme

Permanent Houses

No. of dwellings completed during 1964	24
No. of dwellings under construction at 31.12.64	23
No. of dwellings provided under the Housing Acts to 31.12.64.	1610
No. of pre-war dwellings improved by the provision of standard amenities.	56
No. of pre-war dwellings under improvement at 31.12.64.	52
No. of pre-war houses improved since introduction of the scheme in 1958.	289

Temporary Houses.

There is no temporary housing accommodation provided by the Council.

b) Private Enterprise Housing

Permanent Houses

No. of dwellings completed during 1964	36
No. of dwellings under construction at 31.12.64.	56
No. of dwellings completed since April, 1945.	493

c) Subsidised Agricultural Housing

No. of dwellings completed during 1964	Nil
No. of dwellings completed since April 1945.	* 41
No. of dwellings completed since commencement of scheme in 1938.	69

(* This figure is included in the 493 shown at (b) above).

6. HOUSING: (Contd.)

d) Improvement of Private Dwellings

Discretionary Grants

No. of dwellings improved or provided during 1964	27
Total of grants paid during 1964	£8,281:8:8d.
No. of dwellings improved since 1949.	219
Total of grants paid since 1949	£55,764:8:8d.

Standard Grants

No. of dwellings improved during 1964	31
Total of grants paid during 1964	£4,279:0:0d.
No. of dwellings improved since 1959	262
Total of grants paid since 1959.	£33,964:14:0d.

e) Slum Clearance

No. of Demolition and Closing Orders made, and undertakings accepted, during 1964.	6
No. of families re-housed by Council from unfit dwellings during 1964.	11

The Housing Act, 1964.

This addition to housing legislation was passed on 16th July, 1964, and came into operation one month later. The greatest change that affected this authority was the extensive overhaul of the standard grant scheme, but equally important features were included whereby improvement areas could be declared and, under certain circumstances, the compulsory improvement of individual dwellings could be obtained.

Generally speaking, the changes in the standard grant scheme resulted in three categories of improvement:-

6. HOUSING: (Contd.)

The Housing Act, 1964 (Contd.)

- a) The continuation of the maximum grant of £155 for the provision of the five standard amenities.
- b) A reduced maximum grant of £75 where the full standard amenities could not be provided at reasonable expense. In this case at least a W.C., a satisfactory food store, and a hot and cold water supply to a sink were essential.
- and c) An extended standard whereby an amount above £155, but not exceeding £350, could be fixed by the local authority when the work of providing the standard amenities necessitated additional building work to provide a bathroom, the construction of a septic tank and/or the bringing in of a piped water supply for the first time.

The higher grant was quickly taken advantage of, particularly in respect of the construction of septic tanks. This was to be expected in a rural area where main sewerage schemes can only serve the central parts of each parish.

The Act also reduces the period, during which certain conditions had to be met, from ten to three years.

The grant schemes continue to be popular and no effort is spared to ensure that every enquiry received is followed-up, and as much help as possible is given to applicants for grant. With the general surveys that precede and follow the new sewerage schemes opportunity is taken to publicise the grants, and this has undoubtedly contributed to the numbers of applications.

7. SCHOOLS:

I have no comment to make.

8. MILK:

The Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) Order, operating since April 1959, is still in force. This Order prohibits the retail sale of raw milk unless it carries the special designation "Tuberculin Tested" under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1960.

9. INFECTIOUS DISEASES:

(a)

23 notifications of infectious diseases were received, the total being made up as follows:-

Pneumonia.....	2
Puerperal Pyrexia.....	1
Whooping Cough.....	10
Erysipelas.....	1
Scarlet Fever.....	2
Measles.....	7

Total.....23

(b)

The incidence of notifiable disease in the District has been satisfactorily low.

For yet another year, I have to report that there has been no case of diphtheria in the District.

I do urge all parents to make sure that their families are immunized against diphtheria and polio-myelitis.

Some parents appear quite indifferent to the dangers their non-immunized children face until cases occur in the area; then there is a terrific panic, resulting in delays, shortage of supplies and general alarm.

Immunization can be carried out either by the family doctor or at a County Council Clinic.

9. INFECTIOUS DISEASES: (Contd.)

(c) Tuberculosis:

One new case was notified during the year. After making the necessary adjustments, there are now the following numbers on the Register:-

<u>Respiratory:</u>	<u>Non-Respiratory:</u>
Females: 26.	6.
Males: 38.	1.

Compared with 1963, the total figure shows an increase of 1 case..

10. FOOD:

A large quantity of frozen foods were condemned following a refrigerator breakdown at a Littleport grocers.

It was also necessary to condemn 19 x 11 oz. tins of mandarin oranges.

The outbreak of typhoid at Aberdeen received considerable publicity and the nets were cast wide to ensure that suspect corned beef was removed from public supply. Following Ministry instructions 69 visits were made to retail and catering premises in this area and 8 x 6 lb. tins of the suspect batch were impounded.

Ice Cream

There were 63 premises registered under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act 1955 for the storage and sale of ice cream in the district. No samples were taken.

Food Hygiene

95 inspections were made of various premises in which food is stored, handled and offered for sale. While no formal action was required to secure compliance with the Food Hygiene Regulations, it was necessary to draw attention to various contraventions. It is not possible to comment on general standards throughout the district as the number of visits does not give sufficient detail. Once again it has to be recorded that the desirable number of visits have not been attained. It would be of considerable interest to organise a "clean food campaign" in the district, but this idea must be marked as a "future project" until sufficient time can be given to basic inspections and follow-up visits.

It is a sad reflection that persons intending to open new food premises, or alter existing ones, do not seem to be aware of the duties, or technical knowledge, of the public health inspectorate. One would have thought that their professional advice, given freely, would be eagerly sought, but more often than not, we find the business opened and well advanced, only to explain that fittings have been omitted, or badly sited. A consultation in the early planning stages would save the owner many pounds, and result in a better operational unit.

10. FOOD: (Contd.)

Food Hygiene (Contd.)

Another point worthy of comment concerns the way in which any person can be engaged to handle food without any knowledge of the inherent dangers of dirty practices. It has been advocated that some form of qualification or, at least, a course of training should be compulsory for all food handlers. While this might be possible in urban areas, with central courses of instruction by medical and food technology officers, it would hardly be practical in a scattered rural district. The answer must be sought in adequate training in the schools and, equally important, by correct example in the home. The practice of washing hands after using a W.C. should be as natural as closing ones eyes for sleep, and all other clean habits should be equally ingrained.

11. MISCELLANEOUS:

(a) Rodent and Pest Control

All complaints relating to infestations of mice, rats and other pests were dealt with by Mr. Barker. Routine control was continued on the refuse tips and in the vicinity of sewage disposal plants, and stricter control was exercised over winged insects on the refuse tips by means of pressure spraying. Attempts were made to test bait all sewer systems with some success and, apart from a minor resistance at Sutton, no serious problems were encountered in this direction. The provision of cover-lifting apparatus helped to speed up this control and saved considerably in manpower.

Following the death of cattle at Smarden, Kent, which was attributed to the accidental leakage of a relatively new rat poison, fluoracetamide, it became necessary to restrict the use of this material. Users now have to obtain a certificate from the Medical Officer of Health stating the location and purpose of its proposed use. No certificates have so far been issued.

The fact that Warfarin-resistant rats are now known to exist has prompted research into other specific poisons. No indication of such resistance has yet been recorded in this district.

A serious infestation of rats was found to exist in the Sutton Gault/Mepal Fen area in the Spring, and all land owners were circularised, pointing out the health hazards and damage potentials. It can be recorded that a drastic reduction in the rat population of that district ensued due to the co-operation of all interested parties, but the effort must be continued for long term effectiveness.

A summary of visits and treatments follows:-

(i) Rats and Mice

Complaints received:		201
Inspections:	Dwelling houses	397*
	Business premises	211*
Treatments of:	Dwelling houses	339*
	Business premises	45*

11. MISCELLANEOUS: (Contd.)

(a) Rodent and Pest Control (Contd.)

(i) Rats and Mice (Contd.)

Surveys and Treatments of:	Refuse tips	165
	Sewage plants	101
	Watercourses	132

(ii) Other Pests

Complaints received: 63

Inspections:	Dwelling houses	106*
	Business premises	81*

Treatments of:	Dwelling houses	93*
	Business premises	34*

Surveys and Treatments of: Refuse tips 70

(* These figures include secondary visits and follow-up treatments).

(b) Caravans

Apart from minor difficulties concerning itinerants, the licencing of domestic and holiday sites continued smoothly. The Caravan Sites & Control of Development Act has now had time to settle down, and the need for stricter control of sites has been accepted. Some confusion still arises from the fact that permits and licences are required from two authorities, and that the local council cannot issue a site licence until planning permission has been granted. This has led to a clash of opinion in some cases, and it has not been easy to justify the reasons for refusal of permits in several instances. A reason for refusal that is often given is that large residential sites are operating in the locality. This is a form of directive which precludes an application from a person wishing to use their own land, or a more convenient site, and who might not wish to share a communal plot. Until local authorities can control site rents and operators lists of conditions, this form of refusal for individual sites must be questioned.

11. MISCELLANEOUS: (Contd.)

(b) Caravans (Contd.)

The operators of multiple sites, and holiday sites in this district, have readily complied with licence conditions and a generally high standard of site operation has been maintained.

There has been a reduction in the number of licenced sites as indicated in the following summary:-

Site Licences in force at 1.1.64.

Multiple residential sites (over 5 vans)	6
Holiday sites	2
Single residential sites (1-4 vans)	<u>43</u>
Total (a)	51

New Licences issued during 1964

Single residential sites	<u>1</u>
Total (b)	52
Licences not renewed	12
Renewals refused	<u>2</u>
<u>Site Licences in force at 31.12.64</u> Total (c)	<u>38</u>

Altogether over 160 caravans were being used for residential purposes during the year, the majority standing on multiple sites at Witchford and Littleport.

The Council considered the joint report of the Surveyor and the Chief Public Health Inspector on the implications of starting a central site, or sites, for itinerant caravan dwellers. Although much concern had been shown over conditions existing at various sites in Sutton, Haddenham and Littleport used by such persons, it was decided that no action should be taken on the provision of a Council controlled site.

11. MISCELLANEOUS:

(c) Factories Act

Except for revising the methods of keeping records, and a general survey of the district to ensure that the register was up to date, very little detailed work was accomplished in factory inspection. Certain prescribed details are required to be attached to this report and the Tables are set out below.

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number on Reg- ister (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by local authorities.	9	1	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) which Section 7 is enforced by local authorities.	28	1	Nil	Nil
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by local authorities (excluding out-workers premises.)	1	3	-	-
Totals	38	5	Nil	Nil

11. MISCELLANEOUS: (Contd)

(c) Factories Act (Contd.)

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found:-

The full Table is not set out as this requires a NIL entry throughout.

(d) Slaughterhouses

Meat

Slaughtering was carried out regularly during the year at the private slaughterhouse at Sutton. The standard charges, adopted in 1963, were made for this service.

The income from this service was £11:13:0d. While making no heavy demand on your Inspectors' time, it is an essential part of the work of ensuring a safe food supply. It is satisfying to note that the quality of animals seen is such as to give very low condemnation rates.

Carcases inspected, and condemnations, are as set out in the Table overleaf.

11. MISCELLANEOUS (Contd.)(d) Slaughterhouses (Contd.)Meat (Contd.)

	Cattle excl. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	81	Nil	Nil	61	Nil	Nil
Number inspected	81	Nil	Nil	61	Nil	Nil
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	2	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	2.5%	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

11. MISCELLANEOUS: (Contd.)

(e) Clean Air

No material problems are encountered under this heading in the district.

(f) Offices, Shops & Railway Premises

The "Charter for White Collar Workers" has been amongst the most publicised and, for that matter, amongst the most complicated pieces of legislation for some time. Following the initial three months registration period, the main provisions of the Act came into force on 1st August, 1964. The Act is supplemented by various Regulations and Orders, some of which will not be effective until 1966. In attempting to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest all the pamphlets, circulars and statutory instruments that were published, little time was found to remain in which to make practicable application. However, the Ministry of Labour "recognise that in many areas it is likely to be a number of years before all premises covered by the Act can be visited". This, to a limited inspectorate, is a crumb of comfort, although, for registration purposes, most of the premises were visited during the first few months of the Act's operation.

82 "notifications of employment" had been received by the end of the year. The full, and rapid, administration of this Act would necessitate one inspector dealing with this subject alone for a year or more until a routine pattern of visits emerged.

(g) Petroleum Regulations

There were 128 licences issued at the beginning of the year. All new tank installations were subjected to pressure tests over 24 hours, and in no case was an unsatisfactory result obtained. Revenue from licence fees was £70:14: 2d.

(h) Animal Boarding Establishments Act 1963

3 premises are licenced under this Act.

11. MISCELLANEOUS: (Contd.)

(i) Refuse Collection and Disposal.

One of the least glamorous, but certainly amongst the most important of local authority services, it is not surprising that the subject of refuse collection and disposal received prominence during the year under review.

In order to safeguard the Council against heavy expenditure on mechanical disposal in the future, and to ensure adequate tipping areas for several years ahead, a comprehensive survey was made of all areas suitable for disposal of refuse by controlled tipping. While large pits were known to exist in Littleport, Haddenham and Stretham, their suitability was in doubt on some points, and discussions on the matter were still taking place as we entered 1965. At the beginning of the year no satisfactory method of control was operating at the existing tips at Littleport and Haddenham, and the hand-raking that was practised was both antiquated and uneconomic. As mechanical control was desirable, and a machine would aid the Surveyor in the emptying of sludge beds, the Council purchased a Chaseside 700 Loadmaster which became operative in December. At this stage it is not possible to assess the full value of this equipment, but it will no doubt prove its worth in due course.

The collection service also shared this appraisal of modern methods, and an investigation was made of the possibilities of providing a weekly service throughout the district. Despite the adverse views of the majority of the Parish Councils, it was decided to make the improvement and, for this purpose, authority was given for the addition of a new Dennis Paxit IIA vehicle to supplement the existing Paxit II and Bedford Sideloaders. Ordered in August, delivery was still awaited at the end of the year when it was anticipated that the weekly service would start early in 1965.

In the changeover period, and despite the upheaval of staff changes, the collection service has continued to operate satisfactorily. It is to the credit of the crews, and the supervision of the foreman, Mr. H. Rowell, that this has been achieved. The Chief Public Health Inspector and I am more than thankful that, knowing the labour trouble of many colleagues, we have suffered no set-backs or bad relationships.

11. MISCELLANEOUS: (Contd.)

(i) Refuse Collection and Disposal (Contd.)

No doubt the future will see changes and refinements, not least of which will be the problem of dealing with unwanted bulky items. The subject of refuse collection and disposal, for so long dealt with as a 'poor relation' must become increasingly important. No longer can the carpet be lifted, and the dust gently swept underneath, as the resulting bulge will be too big to be ignored.

No organised scheme of waste paper collection is operated, but salvaged newspaper and cardboard is regularly despatched to the Cambridge Waste Paper Co. Ltd. The income received more than off-sets the cost of bagging and loading.

(j) Street Numbering and Naming

With development taking place in most parishes frequent attention is needed to ensure that properties are suitably numbered, and roads clearly named. Six new or re-numbering proposals were made.

(k) Game Dealers

There were 2 persons licenced to deal in game in the district.

12. GENERAL DISTRICT INSPECTION:

HOUSING ACTS

Inspection of dwelling houses	195
Improvement Grant inspections	128
Improvement Grants enquiries	133
Inspection of demolition works	12
Visits in connection with re-housing	7
General surveys	<u>5</u>

480

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

Inspection of dwelling houses	45
Drainage matters	* 975
Pest control	45
Animal nuisances	13
Offensive accumulations	43
Refuse collection and disposal	142
Water supply	4
General	<u>32</u>

1299

(* Includes all visits made in connection with the Mepal, Haddenham, Coveney, Little Downham and Wilburton sewerage schemes).

FOOD & DRUGS ACT

Cafes, canteens	7
Butchers	13
Fishmongers	2
Ice cream retailers	51
Hotels and Public Houses	5
General food premises	17
Tracing suspect corned beef	69
Meat inspection	<u>57</u>

221

CARAVAN SITES ACT

Site inspections

271

OFFICES, SHOPS & FACTORIES

Registration queries

36

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Visits to private houses

5

12. GENERAL DISTRICT INSPECTION: (Contd.)

PETROLEUM REGULATIONS

Licencing enquiries	44
Pressure testing	16
Seepage testing	<u>2</u>

62

OTHER VISITS

Street naming and numbering	17
Animal Boarding Establishments	6
Sundry	<u>27</u>

50

Total Inspections - 1964

2424

13. GENERAL COMMENTS:

It is never possible to comply strictly with the terms of the Public Health Officers Regulations whereby a systematic inspection of the district is required. There are insufficient breaks in normal working conditions to permit such inspections but, dealing with complaints and making general surveys under specific legislation, your inspectors gain an intimate knowledge of all aspects of community life in which they need to take interest.

In compiling this Report I have endeavoured to indicate the enormous amount of work which has been carried out by the Health Department during the year under review. This has only been possible by the careful utilization of every minute of each working day by your Inspectors. I wish to place on record my admiration and thanks for their great efforts.

I have no doubt that this quantity of work could not have been achieved without the new offices provided, and the appointment of clerical assistance for the Department.

But this is by no means the end of the story. During the year the following new legislation has come into force:-

1. Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act 1963.
2. Housing Act 1964.
3. The Meat (Treatment) Regulations 1964.
4. Poisons Rules 1964.

This increased burden is additional to that load already carried by the Department.

Taking into consideration the statistics given in (12) above, I often wonder how much more the Department, in its present state can absorb.

14. PERSONAL:

It was sad to have to say good-bye to Mr. Arnold Cross, in March. I have been associated with him, in serving the Council, for over 20 years, and I must put on record my sincere thanks to him for his many kindnesses. I wish him a very long and very happy retirement.

In April, Mr. D.J. Gwynn was appointed Chief Public Health Inspector. So far as I am concerned, I must say how very happy I have been to have him as Chief Public Health Inspector. He has given me so much willing help, has never worried me unnecessarily and has invariably given of his best. His willing co-operation and very able assistance has made possible much of this Report. To him and the Additional Public Health Inspector - Mr. N.D. Gayler, I offer my warmest thanks.

To the Clerk, Mr. J.E. Ward, the Deputy Clerk, Mr. Walter Parr, to the Engineer & Surveyor - Mr. Clifford Jones and his Staff my sincere thanks are also due, for their generous and always available advice and assistance.

I have the honour to be,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

K.S. MAURICE-SMITH,

Medical Officer of Health.
Ely Rural District Council.

October, 1965.

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
11, Lynn Road,
ELY, Cambs.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am very pleased to be associated with the Medical Officer of Health's Report for the first time since my appointment as your Chief Public Health Inspector.

The year under review witnessed considerable changes in the local administration of public health matters. Although pending for some while, the retirement of Mr. Arnold Cross, seemed almost to be sudden when the time came. Many tributes were paid to him following his active service to this Council for over 40 years, and his name will long be remembered throughout the district. The changeover from one Inspector to the other was effected quite smoothly, and many changes were made unobtrusively. One of these concerned the establishment of a Department at the Council Offices, with the consequent difficulty of suitable accommodation, and the addition to the staff of an additional Inspector and Clerk/ Typist. At the end of the year the rented offices at 5 Lynn Road were beginning to be generally known and accepted.

Despite the upheaval, the work of attending to the public's need continued uninterrupted. The foregoing statistics and comments will serve to show that environmental hygiene continues to be a very important aspect of a local authority's activities and, to many, an increasingly complex activity.

Of necessity, I had to acquaint myself with the district and with office procedures, and to attempt to distinguish between urgent matters and those of lesser importance. This took some time, although the Council, very wisely, had arranged for my appointment to overlap that of Mr. Cross, and this experience had helped considerably. Generally speaking, while the duties were of the normal pattern for which public health inspectors are trained, the local problems presented their individual difficulties.

No one aspect of the duties can be said to be more important than another, but certain items occur which demand greater or speedier attention. Three particular subjects came to the fore in 1964; refuse disposal, improvements grants and sewerage schemes. These have been dealt with in the earlier sections of this report.

I should like to thank all those who have made my first year in this office such a pleasant experience. To all members of the Council, and particularly the Chairman of the Council and Committees, my thanks for their tolerance and consideration. To my office colleagues for their help and advice. To my staff, both office and manual, for their loyalty and co-operation. Last, but not least, to Dr. Maurice-Smith, for always being ready to advise on matters medical, and for his moral support at meetings in matters general.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

D.J. GWYNN

Chief Public Health Inspector.

October, 1965.

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